

The Conquest of the Pole

By Dr. FREDERICK A. COOK

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WITH a basty farewell to Mr. Bradley and the officers and encouraged with a cheer from "I" on board, we left the motherly yacht for our new home and mission. The yacht stood off to avoid drifting ice and await the return of the motorboat.

When we were set ashore we sat down and watched with saddened eyes the departure of our friends and the severing of the bond which had held us to the known world of life and happiness.

The village of Annotok is placed in a small bay just inside of Cape Inglefield. Its population changes much from year to year, according to the known luck of the chase or the ambition of the men to obtain new bear-skin trousers.

Scattered about it were twelve seal-skin tents, which served as a summer shelter for an equal number of vigorous families. In other places nearer the sea were seven stone igloos. Upon these the work of reconstruction for winter shelter had already begun.



THE MIDNIGHT SUN IN THE ARCTIC.

In the immediate vicinity there were some turf and moss, but everywhere else within a few hundred feet of the sea the land rose abruptly in steep slopes of barren rock.

To the westward across Smith sound in a blue haze were seen Cape Sabine, Bache peninsula and some of the land beyond which we hoped to cross in our prospective venture.

The construction of a winter house and workshop called for immediate attention after the wind subsided. Men, women and children offered strong hands to gather the stones strewn along the shore.

When the cargo is packed in this manner the things can be quickly tossed on deck and transported to floating ice or land. Later it is possible, with packing boxes of uniform size as building material, to erect efficient shelter wherein the calamities of Arctic disaster can be avoided.

Building Winter Quarters.

This precaution against ultimate mishap now served a very useful purpose. Inclosing a space 13 by 16 feet, the cases were quickly piled in. The walls were held together by strips of wood or the joints sealed with pasted paper with the addition of a few long boards.

A really good roof was made by using the covers of the boxes as shingles. A blanket of turf over this confined the heat and permitted at the same time healthful circulation of air.

We slept under our own roof at the end of the first day, and our new house had the very great advantage of containing within its walls all our possessions within easy reach at all times.

Much Work in Sight.

But our expedition was in need of skins and furs. Furthermore, as men engaged for the northern venture would be away during the spring months, the best hunting season of the year, it was necessary to make provision for house needs later. There was therefore much work before us, for we had not only to prepare our equipment, but to provide for the families of the workers.

In the polar cycle of the seasons there are peculiar conditions which apply to circumstances and movements. As the world seasons are ordinarily understood there are but two, a winter season and a summer season—a winter season of nine months and a summer of three months.

But for more convenient division of the yearly periods it is best to retain the usual cycle of four seasons. Eskimos call the winter oohkiah, which also means year, and the summer onsh. Days are "sleeps." The months are moons, and the periods are named in accord with the movements of various creatures of the chase.

In early September at Annotok the sun dips considerably under the northern horizon. There is no night. At sunset and at sunrise storm clouds hide the bursts of color which are the glory of twilight, and the electric after-glow is generally lost in the dull gray which bespeaks the torment of the storms of the setting sun.

Harvesting Food and Fuel for the Polar Trip. Narwhal Hunting an Exciting Sport

(THIRD ARTICLE)

The gloom of the coming winter night now thickens. The splendor of the summer day has gone. A day of six months and a night of six months are often ascribed to the polar regions as a whole, but this is only true of a very small area about the pole.

As we come south the sun slips under the horizon for an ever increasing part of each twenty-four hours. Proceeding and following the night as we come from the pole there is a period of day and night which lengthens with the descent of latitude.

It is this period which enables us to retain the names of the usual seasons—summer for the double days, fall for the period of the setting sun. This season begins when the sun first dips under the ice at midnight for a few moments.

The Arctic Night.

These moments increase rapidly, yet one hardly appreciates that the sun is departing until day and night are of equal length, for the night remains light, though not cheerful. Then the day rapidly shortens and darkens, and the sun sinks until at least there is but a mere glimmer of the glory of day.

of adventure. The unicorn, or narwhal, does not often come under the eye of the white man, though one of the first animals to leave our shores.

It gave for a brief spell good results in sport and useful material. The blubber is the pride of every house-keeper, for it gives a long, hot flame to the lamp, with no smoke to spot the igloo finery. The skin is regarded as quite a delicacy. Cut into squares, it looks and tastes like scallops, with only a slight aroma of train oil.

The meat dries easily and is thus prized as an appetizer or as a lunch to be eaten en route in sled or kayak. In this shape it was an extremely useful thing for us, for it took the place of pemmican for our less urgent journeys.

The narwhal, which, apart from its usefulness, is most interesting to denizens of the Arctic deer, played in schools far off shore, usually along the edge of large ice. Its long ivory tusks rose under gusts of breath and spray.

When this sight was noted every kayak about camp was manned, and the Eskimos' skin canoes went like birds over the water. Some of the Eskimos rose to the ice fields and delivered harpoons from a secure footing. Others hid behind floating fragments of heavy ice and made a sudden rush as the animals passed.

Still others came up in the rear, for the narwhal cannot easily see backward and does not often turn to watch its enemies, its speed being so fast that it can easily keep ahead of other troublesome creatures.

Hunting the Narwhal.

The harpoon is always delivered at close range. When the dragging float marked the end of the line in tow of the frightened creature the line of skin canoes followed. The narwhal is timid by nature. Fearing to rise for breath, he plunged along until nearly strangled. When it did come up there were several Eskimos near with drawn lances, which inflicted deep gashes.

Again the narwhal plunged deep down with out one breath and hurried along as best it could. But its speed slackened, and a line of crimson marked its hidden path. Loss of blood and want of air did not give it a chance to fight. Again it came up with a spout; again the lances were hurled.

The battle continued for several hours, with many exciting adventures, but in the end the narwhal always succumbed, offering a prize of several thousand pounds of meat and blubber. Victory, as a rule, was not gained until the hunters were far from home, also far from the shore line. But the Eskimo is a courageous hunter and an intelligent seaman.

Towing the Carcass.

To the huge carcass frail kayaks were hitched in a long line. Towing is slow, wind and sea combining to make the task difficult and dangerous.



DR. COOK IN ARCTIC COSTUME

One sees nothing of the narwhal and very little of the kayak, for dashing seas wash over the little craft, but the double-bladed paddles seewash with the regularity of a pendulum.

Homecoming takes many hours and engenders a prodigious amount of hard work, but there is energy to spare, for a wealth of meat and fat is the culmination of all Eskimo ambition.

Seven of these ponderous animals were brought in during five days, making a heap of more than 40,000 pounds of food and fuel. Then the narwhals suddenly disappeared, and we saw no more of them.

Three white whales were also obtained in a similar way at Etah at about the same time.

True.

All men at times must toe the mark. But all men also know The holes in socks, I left undarned. Will surely mark the toe. —Detroit Free Press.

How About This?

"Mrs. Hyler says her husband is a perfect man." "Huh! You know what people say about a perfect man, as a rule." —Kansas City Times.

A Psalm of Hair.

Heads of old men oft remind us That our hair would be sublime If the tonic men could find us While there yet was lots of time. —Chicago Post.

Possible Explanation.

Harker—I wonder why Coppin gave up his quarters at the Uppson hotel? Parker—Probably because he hadn't the dollars to pay for them. —Denver Republican.

His Version of It.

My wife says her husband's a dream. I say so too, for I've a habit Of dreaming the most horrid dreams After dining on Welsh rabbit. —Houston Post.

A Clinger.

"Billings used to say he admired a clinging woman. Did he marry one?" "Yes. She hangs on to every cent of his salary." —Washington Star.

PRESIDENT TAFT'S AUTUMN OUTING

The Itinerary to Be Followed in Making the 13,000 Mile Journey Across the Continent and Return.

Places to Be Visited During the Fifty-six Days of President's Grand "Swing Around the Circle."

THE presidential tour across the continent and return by the southern route, beginning Sept. 15 and ending Nov. 10, amounts practically to a wide swing around the United States covering approximately 13,000 miles.

On this tour every modern means of transportation except the airship will be employed. Starting from the north coast of Massachusetts, the route is direct west from Beverly by motor into Boston the morning of Sept. 15—Mr. Taft's fifty-second birthday—and there boarding the car which practically will be a roving White House for two months.

The president's first stop was arranged for Chicago, on the morning of Sept. 16, spending the afternoon and evening, leaving at 3 a. m., Friday, Sept. 17, for Milwaukee, Wis., spending there the entire forenoon of that day, leaving there at midday for Winona, Minn., with a brief stop at La Crosse, Wis., en route. After spending Friday night at Winona the president arranged to reach Minneapolis early the morning of Sept. 18. This two days' visit was planned to include an afternoon and evening in St. Paul. On Sept. 20 five hours will be spent in Des Moines, and then the president moves on to Omaha.

At Denver Sept. 21.

Denver will be reached during the afternoon of Sept. 21, and the president will go almost direct from his train to the state capital for a reception to be tendered by state officials, by the chamber of commerce, civic organizations, etc. At 9 p. m. the president will make an address in the Denver Auditorium, where Mr. Bryan last year was nominated for the presidency. The president and his party will breakfast with Thomas F. Walsh at Wolhurst, near Denver, the morning of Sept. 22, and then return to the city for the chamber of commerce banquet at noon. Leaving Denver at 5 p. m., Sept. 22, the president and his party will stop for an hour's visit at Colorado Springs and then go on to Pueblo.

The morning of Sept. 23 will find the president at Glenwood Springs for a brief visit, and that afternoon he will visit Montrose to have a look at the great Gunnison tunnel of the western Colorado irrigation project. Returning to Grand Junction to resume the journey westward, the president is scheduled to arrive at Salt Lake City Friday afternoon, Sept. 24, to remain there until Sunday afternoon, the 26th, when the party will leave over the Oregon Short Line for Pocatello, Ida., and Butte, Mont., the latter city being reached Monday, Sept. 27, at 6:40 a. m. After spending half a day in Butte there will be a brief excursion into Helena, Spokane, Wash., will be reached early Tuesday morning, the 28th, and the entire day will be spent in the city. The forenoon of the 29th will be spent at North Yakima, and the party will arrive at Seattle at 8:15 o'clock that evening. The president will also visit Tacoma.

At the Seattle Fair.

President Taft will spend two days, Sept. 30 and Oct. 1, "doing" the Alaska-Yukon exposition, leaving Seattle late on the evening of the second day and arriving at Portland, Ore., Oct. 2, at 7 a. m. Two days will be spent in Portland, the party leaving there at 6 p. m., Sunday, Oct. 3, for a trip down the famous Shasta route, through the Siskiyou mountains and in view of Mount Shasta, to San Francisco.

The president will stop for the evening of Oct. 4 at Sacramento, reaching Oakland early on the morning of Oct. 5. He will spend four or five hours in and around Oakland and Berkeley before taking the ferry at 12:30 o'clock for San Francisco. After an afternoon and evening in San Francisco the president will leave early the morning of the 6th for the Yosemite valley. He will spend the 7th, 8th and 9th in the valley and, coming out the morning of Sunday, Oct. 10, will proceed to Los Angeles, stopping for three hours at Fresno on Sunday afternoon. The president on Monday and Tuesday, Oct. 11 and 12, will be in Los Angeles visiting his sister. He will

arrive at the Grand canyon the morning of Oct. 14 and will leave again that night for Albuquerque, N. M., where he will spend the evening of the 15th, reaching El Paso early the following morning for the meeting with President Diaz of Mexico.

The president is due to reach San Antonio Sunday night, Oct. 17, and will spend the forenoon of the following day in an inspection of Fort Sam Houston, with the upbuilding of which he had much to do while secretary of war. Arriving at Corpus Christi the evening of Oct. 18, the president goes at once to his brother's ranch, where he will stay through Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Visiting Houston on the forenoon of Saturday, Oct. 23, the president proceeds to Dallas that afternoon to spend Saturday evening and Sunday.

Down the Mississippi.

From Dallas the president proceeds direct to St. Louis to begin his four days' trip down that historic waterway. He is to reach St. Louis at 7:27 on the morning of Monday, Oct. 25, and will leave at 4 p. m. on the steamboat assigned to him by the Deep Waterways association.

The first long stop of the river trip will be at Cairo, Ill., at 8:30 a. m., Tuesday, Oct. 26. The second stop will be at Hickman, Ky., at 2:30 p. m., the president making brief addresses at both places. Arriving at Memphis, Tenn., at 8 a. m., Wednesday, Oct. 27, the president will make an address at 9 a. m. and that afternoon at 5 o'clock will speak at Helena, Ark. On Thursday, Oct. 28, at 2:30 p. m., the president will make a speech at Vicksburg. New Orleans will be reached about 4 o'clock Friday afternoon. The river journey also will include short stops at Cape Girardeau, Mo., and Natchez, Miss. The president will remain in New Or-



PRESIDENT TAFT SPEAKING FROM PLATFORM OF HIS CAR.

ing of Wednesday, Sept. 22, and then return to the city for the chamber of commerce banquet at noon. Leaving Denver at 5 p. m., Sept. 22, the president and his party will stop for an hour's visit at Colorado Springs and then go on to Pueblo.

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Through States of the South.

From New Orleans the president goes to Jackson, Miss., spending practically the entire day of Nov. 1 there. He will spend three hours of the following day at Columbus, Miss., and will arrive at Birmingham, Ala., that evening at 7:45 o'clock. The president will remain in Birmingham until the afternoon of Wednesday, Nov. 3, when he proceeds to Macon, Ga., arriving there early the morning of the 4th. After spending the forenoon of the 4th at Macon the president proceeds to Savannah to spend the evening of the 4th and half of the next day. Charleston, S. C., is next on the list for a stop, the evening of Nov. 5. From Charleston the president will proceed on Saturday morning, Nov. 6, to Augusta, where he will spend Saturday afternoon and Sunday. Columbus, S. C., will be visited the afternoon of Nov. 8, and Wilmington, N. C., will claim the president for the entire day of the 9th.

The president will spend twelve hours in Richmond, Va., from 5 a. m. to 5 p. m., and will return to Washington on the night of Nov. 10.

Rude Jenny.

When Jonathan said unto Jane, "To marry you, miss, I am fain." She said, with disdain: "You give me a pain!" You're the kind that stays out in the rain." —Baltimore American.

Beyond Criticism.

Jack—Those young widows have an advantage over you single girls because they know all about men. Madge—Yes, and because the only men who know all about them are dead. —Boston Transcript.

The Early Arrival.

Old Hudson's luck was something rare. The craft which he commanded Found ne'er a customs person there To fret him when he landed. —Washington Star.

Recognized the Signs.

The Sparrow—What makes that rotter of a rain crow so bloomin' certain hits goin' to rain? The Robin—Oh, he saw the boarders all start out for a picnic this morning. —New York Press.



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